

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application. By this response, claims 11, 16, 22 and 23 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

**I. Claim Objections**

Claim 25 has been objected to on the grounds of informalities. Applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the Preliminary Amendment filed on September 9, 2003, which replaces "referenec" with --reference-- in the rejected claim. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant objection.

**II. Claim Rejections**

Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the claimed invention. Claim 16 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the recited structure. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. Claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the second plurality of electrically conductive I/O members can be coupled to the second surface of the second dielectric member through a second dielectric layer. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Claims 14, 15, 17, 19, 20 and 21 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,724,077 to Gates et al. ("the '077 patent"). Applicants are submitting a terminal disclaimer herewith to overcome this rejection. In this regard, the '077 patent and the claimed invention were commonly owned at the time the claimed invention was made. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Claim 18 has been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of the '077 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,381,423 to Taylor ("Taylor"). Applicants traverse this rejection. In particular, Applicants direct the Examiner to

the terminal disclaimer already mentioned and assert that Taylor cannot support a double patenting rejection on its own. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Claims 1, 11, 12, 13, 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,388,207 to Figueroa et al. ("Figueroa"). Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully assert that Figueroa does not disclose all of the claimed limitations.

With specific regard to claim 1, Figueroa fails to describe a plurality of multi-signal *bus bars* as claimed. Rather, Figueroa is directed to a boxlike substrate 60 that has *trenches* 61-64 coupled to a dielectric *core* 97, 70, 98 of the substrate 60, where the dielectric core 97, 70, 98 is coupled to *vias* 86 (See FIGS. 4 & 5). While the Office Action appears to equate the trenches/core/vias combination of Figueroa to the claimed bus bars, Applicants point out that the words of a claim must be given their ordinary meaning and must be read as they would be interpreted by those of ordinary skill in the art (See MPEP 2111.01). Applicants therefore assert that the term "bus bars" would not reasonably be interpreted by those of ordinary skill in the art as being a structure integral to a boxlike substrate 60 as shown in Figueroa. For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Figueroa.

With specific regard to claim 23, Figueroa fails to obtain a multi-signal bus bar having a *substantially planar overall geometry* as claimed. As already discussed, Figueroa shows a trench/core/vias combination that is integral to a substrate 60 having a substantially isometric overall geometry. For at least the above reasons, claim 23 is patentable over Figueroa.

Claims 11-13 and 24 depend from claims 1 and 23, and therefore also recite patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

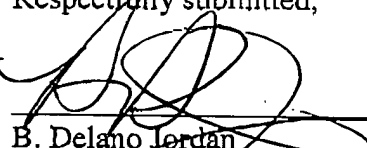
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**CONCLUSION**


Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass this case to issue at the Examiner's earliest possible convenience.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 703.633.0962.

Respectfully submitted,

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